exports during the corresponding period of last year as given below:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

	1990-91 (April-Nov.)	1991-92 (April-Nov.)	Increase
Total Exports of Leather & Leather products	1608.56	1896.15	17.9%
Exports to Germany	367.64	407.10	10.7%

Value of Import and Export of Agricultural products

1831. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity and price of the export and import of agricultural commodities during the last five years; and

(b) what is the share of agricultural commodities percentage wise, in the total exports and imports during the past five years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The infornration sought by the Hon'ble Member is available in the Economic survey 1991-92 presented to Parliament by the Union Minister of Finance during the current Session of Parliament. Copies of the Economic Survey 1991-92 are available in Parliament Library.

Supply of Iron Ore from Bailadilla to Japan

1832. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: SHRI S. MADHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Financial Express on 10th February, 1992 under the caption "Japan Success Story of Exploitation";

(b) whether undue pressure was put on MMTC to ensure supply of high grade iron ore from Bailadilla to Japan;

(c) what is the contracted quantity for export of high grade iron ore to Japan in the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(d) whether any agreement was signed with the Japanese Steel Mills for the export of iron ore in 1992-93;

(e) whether a cut in price together with the quantity of iron ore was agreed to resulting in loss; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Exports of iron ore to Japanese Steel Mills (JSMs) are being made under a five year long term contract concluded in pursuance to a Memorandum of Agreement signed jointly by MMTC, NMDC and KIOCL with JSMs in October, 1990. The contract provides for export of 11.53-13.75 million tonnes of iron ore per annum including 3.5-4.00 million tonnes of high grade lumpy ore from Bailadilla. The exact quantity within this range and prices are to be decided each year at the time of annual price negotiations. In terms of annual agreement for 1992-93 reached with JSMs on 31st Jan' 92, a quantity of 3 million tonnes of Bailadilla lumps is to be exported during 1992-93. The contract volume including high grade Bailadilla lumpy ore for 1993-94 and 1994-95 would be determined at the time of price negotiations each year.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) A price cut of 6.36%' for lumps and 4.90% for fines and concentrates agreed upon in the annual agreement for 1992-93 is the same as settled by JSMs with other major suppliers of iron ore, namely Brazil and Australia. No price settlement was reached for Kudremukh pellets pending finalisation of price of major pellet brands in the Japanese market. Export volume of Bailadilla lumpy ore was reduced from 4 million tonnes in 1991-92 to 3 million tonnes in 1992-93 due to pressure of domestic demand in India. JSMs reduced their in-take of ore from Paradeep (by 6 lakh tonnes) and from Madras (by 4 lakh tonnes) due to lower forecast of steel production during 1992-93, high inventory and high volume of carry over iron ore from current fiscal contracts. A price cut coupled with reduction in the quantity of iron ore to

be exported to Japan during 1992-93 would result in some loss in foreign exchange earnings, but would conserve our stock of high grade Bailadila iron ore.

Renewal of Iron Ore contract with Japan

1833. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the Observer of the 15th January, 1992 under the caption "Renewal of iron ore contract with Japan-trip cancelled on Prime Minister's orders";

(b) whether it is a fact that the trip by an Indian delegation was cancelled by Prime Minister;

(c) if so, what were the reasons therefor?

(d) whether it is a fact that a delegation subsequently left for Japan to negotiate terms for sale of iron ore; and

(e) whether un-restricted exports of iron ore to Japan will affect the needs of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Government has seen the press report, under reference.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The visit of the Indian delegation to Japan for negotiations with Japanese Steel Mills for export of iron ore during 1992-93 was only postponed by a few days from the middle of January, 1992 to 21st January, 1992.

(e) Requirements of domestic consumers, including Vizag Steel Plant, have been kept in view while finalising contract volume for export of iron ore to Japan for 1992-93.

Export of Ayurvedic Unani and Siddha Medicines

1834. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a tremendous increase in export of Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha drugs during the year 1991-92;

(b) if so, what is Government's action plan to nourish such companies and to make available the required support; and

(c) how much foreign exchange has been earned from such export during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The value of export of Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha Medicines / drugs is indicated below:

1988-89		Rs. 6.47 Crores.
1989-90		Rs. 2.92 Crores.
1990-91		Rs. 7.29 Crores.
1991-92		Rs. 1.90 Crores.
(April to	January)	

Although many of the Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines have export potential, exports of these medicines have not been very significant, particularly due to problems connected with lengthy and cumbersome procedure for registration of drugs laid down by the health authorities of overseas countries. Moreover, the manufacturers of Ayurvedic Unani and Siddha Medicines do not have the same kind of clinical data to back their products up as is available for allopathic medicines. Many countries have restrictions on use of this group of medicines because of presence of Metal Oxides in them.

In order to popularise the use of Ayurvedic medicines in overseas countries, the Basic Chemical Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) Bombay, in association with a renowned Ayurvedic Research Centre have prepared a monograph on "Selected Medicinal plants" for publicity abroad and are undertaking all other usual export promotion measures such as sending promotional teams abroad and arranging buyer-seller meets, etc. to boost exports from this sector.

Price of Mica fixed by MITCO

1835. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the floor prices fixed by MITCO for the different categories of Mica; and

(b) what is the latest position of export orders of Mica?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE